

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Claim 1 (cancelled)

2. (previously presented) A damper assembly with a torque limiter, said damper assembly having a single torque transmission path between an input axis and an output axis, and comprising:

a friction torque limiter between said input axis or said output axis and an airtight damper, said friction torque limiter being in series with said damper and limiting the torque which can be transmitted through said damper, wherein said friction torque limiter is disposed outside said airtight damper and includes a torque transmission plate fixed to a drive member of the damper, and a friction plate held in frictional engagement with said torque transmission plate by a press plate having a radially outer peripheral portion spline engaged with a radially inner peripheral portion of a torque transmitting member and pressed toward said torque transmission plate by a press spring.

Claims 3-4 (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) A damper assembly with a torque limiter, said damper assembly having a single torque transmission path between an input axis and an output axis, and comprising:

a friction torque limiter between said input axis or said output axis and an airtight damper, said friction torque limiter being in series with said damper and limiting the torque which can be transmitted through said damper, wherein said friction torque limiter is provided inside said airtight damper and includes a ring member having opposite axial end portions and a circumferential sidewall portion joining said opposite axial end portions, said circumferential sidewall portion having a conical periphery providing a friction surface through which torque is transmitted in said friction path.

6. (currently amended) A damper assembly with a torque limiter according to Claim 5, wherein said friction surface is a radially outer peripheral surface of said circumferential sidewall portion of said ring member.

7. (currently amended) A damper assembly with a torque limiter, said damper assembly having a single torque transmission path between an input axis and an output axis, and comprising:

a friction torque limiter between said input axis or said output axis and an airtight damper, said friction torque limiter being in series with said damper and limiting the torque which can be transmitted through said damper, wherein said friction torque limiter is provided inside said airtight damper and includes a ring member having opposite axial end portions and a circumferential sidewall portion joining said opposite axial end portions, said circumferential sidewall portion having a conical peripheral friction surface which is frictionally engaged with an adjacent conical surface and through which torque is thereby transmitted in said friction path.

8. (currently amended) A damper assembly with a torque limiter according to Claim 7, wherein said friction surface is a radially outer peripheral surface of said circumferential sidewall portion of said ring member.

9. (New) A damper assembly with a torque limiter, said damper assembly having a single torque transmission path between an input axis and an output axis, and comprising:

a friction torque limiter between said input axis or said output axis and an airtight damper, said friction torque limiter being in series with said damper and limiting the torque which can be transmitted through said damper, wherein said torque limiter is provided inside said airtight damper and includes a plurality of wet friction plates.

10. (new) A damper assembly with a torque limiter according to Claim 9, wherein said wet friction plates are pressed by a spring.

11. (new) A damper assembly with a torque limiter according to Claim 10, wherein adjacent wet friction plates are arranged with a torque transmission plate disposed therebetween.

12. (new) A damper assembly with a torque limiter according to Claim 11, wherein said wet friction plates are spline engaged with one of a torque transmitting member and a drive plate of said airtight damper, and said torque

transmission plate is spline engaged with the other of said torque transmitting member and said drive plate.

13. (new) A damper assembly with a torque limiter according to Claim 11, wherein said wet friction plates are spline engaged with a radially adjacent member.